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Claim 10 has been canceled. Claims 1-9 and 11-18 remain pending in the present application.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 9, 11-12, and 15-18, and respectfully submits that the provided reasons for allowability include only the Examiner's interpretation, which should in no way limit the scope of the allowed claims.

Claims 1-8 and 13-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,238,291 to Fujimoto et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,571,680 to Wu.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The Examiner relied upon Fujimoto et al. as a combining reference that allegedly discloses the claimed feature of a sound waveform corresponding to sound data being read from CPU memory. The Examiner, thus, asserted that the combination of Fujimoto et al. and Wu would have suggested the claimed feature of dynamically altering a CPU interrupt signal in accordance with a sound data that is read from a CPU memory because Wu allegedly discloses the claimed interrupt alteration feature.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness in that there is no suggestion or motivation in either reference, as cited, to be combined with each other in the manner proposed by the Examiner. In particular, the Examiner has not presented any suggestion or motivation in either reference to combine the music pace-counting walking shoe for counting detected paces from a switch KW (or KW' in Figs. 5-6 of Wu) described in Wu with the cartridge game machine described in Fujimoto et al.

Applicant further submits that even assuming, arguendo, that the combination of references would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the claimed invention

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was made, such a combination would still have failed to disclose or suggest the claimed feature of "dynamically altering a CPU interrupt signal in accordance with a sound data that is read from a CPU memory" because Wu merely describes producing sounds to an interrupt set according to a pace detector (i.e., switch KW or KW' in Figs. 5-6 of Wu), and the interrupt described therein is not altered in accordance with any sound data. Wu describes "the content of M9 is multiplied by the value K (block 29 as shown Fig. 3) to adjust the time interval of the interrupts. Thus, the walking speed can control the tempo of music or beat sound." Col. 7, lines 23-27 of Wu. In other words, Wu does not disclose or suggest any interrupt that is altered according to sound data.

Therefore, even assuming, arguendo, that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine Fujimoto et al. and Wu, such a combination would, at most, have suggested altering sound data, which is read out as described in Fujimoto et al., by an interrupt set according to a pace detector, as described in Wu. Such a combination would, therefore, still have failed to disclose or suggest,

"[a] method for generating a clear playback sound in an electronic device including a CPU and a speaker, the method comprising the steps of:

dynamically altering a CPU interrupt signal in accordance with a sound data that is read from a CPU memory; and

emitting to a speaker of the electronic device said sound data obtained in connection with said CPU interrupt signal, wherein the timing between said sound data and the timing of said CPU interrupt signal are made to agree with each other to provide a clear playback sound;

wherein a period of said CPU interrupt signal is dynamically altered to T/n (where n = 2, 3, ...) with respect to a period T of said sound data, and wherein

the timing of interrupt corresponds to a rise or fall of a sound waveform of said sound data and discrepancy between the timing of said period of said CPU interrupt signal and the timing of the rise and fall of the sound waveform is substantially eliminated

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by said dynamically altering said period of said CPU interrupt signal to T/n," as recited in claim 1. (Emphasis added)

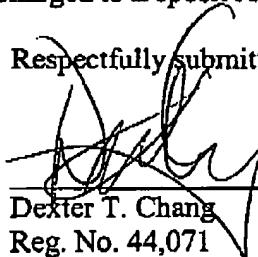
Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over Fujimoto et al. and Wu, separately and in combination, for at least the foregoing reasons. Claims 2-7 and 13-14 incorporate features that correspond to those of claim 1 cited above, and are, therefore, together with claim 8 dependent from claim 7, patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons.

The above statements on the disclosure in the cited reference represent the present opinions of the undersigned attorney. The Examiner is respectfully requested to specifically indicate those portions of the reference that provide the basis for a view contrary to any of the above-stated opinions.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,


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